



HR1108

LRB096 21814 GRL 39732 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2           WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of  
3 Representatives are pleased to honor Eleanor (Ellie) O'Connor  
4 Clarke of Lake Forest for her work as a vital link between  
5 Horizon Hospice and Palliative Care and Children's Memorial  
6 Hospital and other organizations, including Catholic  
7 Theological Union, Catholic Charities of Lake County,  
8 Woodlands Academy of the Sacred Heart in Lake Forest; and

9           WHEREAS, Ellie joined the Horizon Hospice Board of  
10 Directors in 1982 at the invitation of Horizon's founder, Ada  
11 Addington, following the 2-year struggle and loss of her young  
12 daughter, Eleanor, at the age of 9 to brain cancer; Ellie was  
13 interested in supporting other families who were coping with  
14 loss, both through the dying process and in the aftermath; and

15           WHEREAS, Ellie has been a steadfast advocate for improved  
16 care for children with life-limiting illnesses and their  
17 families since the mid-1990s, when she was president of the  
18 Woman's Board at Children's Memorial; she envisioned Horizon  
19 Hospice and Children's Memorial Hospital working together to  
20 deliver high-quality hospice and palliative care to dying  
21 children and their families; and

22           WHEREAS, Ellie was instrumental in the creation of All

1 About Kids, a Horizon Hospice program that works in  
2 collaboration with Children's Memorial Hospital to provide  
3 pediatric palliative care to all children with life-limiting  
4 illnesses and their families in metropolitan Chicago,  
5 regardless of the ability to pay; and

6 WHEREAS, Ellie and her husband, Charley, were extremely  
7 grateful for the care that their daughter Eleanor received at  
8 the hospital and were determined to show their gratitude by  
9 giving back; because Ellie knew the value of having someone to  
10 talk to while coping with the illness of a child, she became a  
11 volunteer ombudsman for parents of children diagnosed with  
12 brain tumors; and

13 WHEREAS, Ellie assisted in initiating "Heartlight", a  
14 grief support group for bereaved parents and their surviving  
15 children; the group has become a model for family grief support  
16 groups everywhere; and

17 WHEREAS, Ellie and her family established the Eleanor  
18 Clarke Research Scholar in Developmental Neurobiology in  
19 memory of their daughter; and

20 WHEREAS, Because of the generous contributions of time and  
21 funding through the years, Ellie served Horizon well as a  
22 donor, a board member, and a member of the benefit,

1 development, and finance committees; and

2 WHEREAS, Ellie and her family are establishing the Eleanor  
3 Clarke Learning Library at the new Ann & Robert Lurie  
4 Children's Hospital of Chicago; therefore, be it

5 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
6 NINETY-SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we  
7 congratulate Eleanor Clarke for her many accolades and thank  
8 her for her time and generosity for hospice care and outreach  
9 to others in need; and be it further

10 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be  
11 presented to Eleanor Clarke, Horizon Hospice and Palliative  
12 Care, Children's Memorial Hospital, Chicago Theological Union,  
13 Catholic Charities of Lake County, and Woodlands Academy of the  
14 Sacred Heart in Lake Forest as a symbol of our esteem and  
15 respect for this fine woman of distinction.